(b) if so, the amount of World Bank loan sanctioned to that State; and

(c) the term and condition laid down by the World Bank for the repayment of loan?

THEMINISTER QF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. Government of India has posed the proposal to the World Bank seeking its assistance for Orissa Cyclone Mitigation and Reconstruction Project. The proposal is under consideration of the Bank.

(b) There is no commitment from the Bank for assistance as yet.

(c) In view of (b) the question does not arise at this point of time.

Imbalance prevailing in the schemes

†5413. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 30 per cent of the total budget will be spent towards the payment of interest whereas the 5 per cent of the same will be spent on police and mere 3 per cent thereof on agro and rural development; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to remove the grave imbalances prevailing in the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The provision for 'interest payments', 'police' and 'agriculture and rural development' in the budget for the year 2000-2001 are about 30%, 2% and 6% respectively of the total expenditure of the Government.

(b) Provision for payments towards interest in the current year are meant for servicing debts raised over several years. Excluding payments on 'interest', 'defence', 'subsidies', etc., the provision for expenditure ori developmental schemes is more than those for other non-developmental activities. In para 10 of the Finance Minister's Budget speech (2000-01), several measures have been announced to deal with the situation.

New Bank branches proposed to be opened in Meghalaya

5414. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of new branches of nationalised banks proposed to be opened in rural areas of Meghalaya State during 2000-2001, district-wise;

(b) the details of proposals under consideration for opening new branches in Meghalaya during the above period; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Under the Extant Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is left to the judgment of the individual banks to assess the need for opening additional branches within their Service Areas subject to the availability of infrastructure and viability of the branch. RBI have reported that out of 179 branches of scheduled commercial banks in Meghalaya as on 31.12.1999, there are 131 branches in rural areas. RBI have further reported there are no authorizations pending for opening of branches in rural areas nor any fresh applications received, from Commercial banks, for opening of branches in rural areas in Meghalaya.

Inadequate staff strength in customs office at Bangalore

5415. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the staff strength in Customs Office at Bangalore is inadequate to meet the demand and no customs escorts are available in Bangalore to be on Hyderabad-Muscat flight *via* Bangalore and Kochi; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to post required number of staff to customs office at Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal for sanction of separate staff for Bangalore Airport is under active consideration by the Government.

Assam Government request for financial assistance on account of pay revision

5416. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: